

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8403
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 PARIS 26335

DEPARTMENT FOR IO: ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES AND FOX

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AORG UN
SUBJECT: UN RESTRUCTURING--U.S.-FRENCH CONSULTATION

REFS: (A) STATE 209305; (B) GENEVA 7571;
(C) USUN 2835

1. SUMMARY: IN DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FRANK'S SEPTEMBER 8 MEETING AT QUAL, FRENCH MAINTAINED OPPOSITION TO CREATION OF UN POST OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT, AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (DG), BUT THEY SHOWED FLEXIBILITY IN WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER CREATION OF OVERALL DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL AS NUMBER TWO MAN AT UN. ALSO, ALBEIT RELUCTANTLY AND ONLY SHOULD OTHER ALTERNATIVES NOT BE POSSIBLE, THEY APPEARED WILLING TO LOOK SOMEWHAT LESS HARSHLY AT DG POST. THEIR CONDITION FOR THIS, IF CREATION OF DG BECOMES UNAVOIDABLE, WOULD BE THAT NEW DG JOB DESCRIPTION BE WORKED INTO DRAFT PARAGRAPH 5 OF DADZIE TEXT. MOREOVER, UNDER ANY RESTRUCTURING PLAN THERE MUST BE CLEARLY DEFINED AND
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SIGNIFICANT ROLE FOR UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (UNDER SYG FOR ESA) IN ORDER THAT STRONG AND COMPETENT FRENCH CANDIDATE CAN BE NAMED TO THIS POST. IN SEPARATE TALK WITH FRANK, RIPERT EVIDENCED STRONG INTEREST IN THE ESA POST AND FLEXIBILITY ON NEED TO ACCOMMODATE G-77 INTEREST IN A HIGH-LEVEL UN POST, BUT UNWILLINGNESS TO TAKE THE JOB IF IT IS DRAINED OF POLICY

AND OPERATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE BY LAYERING. FRANK AND EMBASSY BELIEVE FRENCH ARGUMENTS RE NEED FOR REVISING DG'S JOB DESCRIPTION AND CLARIFYING UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL'S ROLE MERIT OUR CLOSE ATTENTION. WE URGE THAT SPECIAL EFFORTS BE MADE IN DEPARTMENT AND USUN TO SEIZE ON NEW FRENCH FLEXIBILITY AND TO COOPERATE WITH THEM IN RESOLVING PROBLEM, FOR WHICH THEY URGENTLY NEED TO FIND ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION. FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD INTENDS TO RAISE THIS SUBJECT WITH SECRETARY VANCE SEPTEMBER 15 WHEN FORMER WILL BE IN WASHINGTON WITH PRIME MINISTER BARRE. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 8, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FRANK, EMBASSY COUNSELOR MYERSON, AND EMBOFF HELD LONG, FULL DISCUSSION OF UN RESTRUCTURING PROBLEM WITH QUAI UN AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIRECTOR JACQUES LECOMPT AND CHIEF OF HIS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SECTION, ALAIN DEJAMMET. FRANK OPENED MEETING WITH REVIEW OF U.S. POSITION. OUR PRIMARY CONCERN OVER NEXT FEW WEEKS, HE SAID, WAS FOR CREATION BY CHAIRMAN DADZIE'S COMMITTEE OF STRONG DRAFT TEXT WHICH WOULD DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH SPECIFIC POINTS, SUCH AS CONSOLIDATION OF FUNDS AND PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING FUNCTIONS, WHICH WE FEEL ARE URGENTLY NEEDED TO IMPROVE MANAGEMENT OF UN INSTITUTIONS AND PROGRAMS. HE CONTINUED THAT DG POSITION, IN AND OF ITSELF, WAS NOT AS IMPORTANT TO U.S. AS WERE NUMBER OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THESE INDIVIDUAL ASPECTS OF RESTRUCTURING ISSUE, WHICH WE VERY MUCH HAD TO BRING UNDER CONTROL IF WE WISHED TO FACE MOUNTING U.S. CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC CRITICISM OF UN SYSTEM. WE INTEND TO TAKE PASSIVE STANCE ON DG POST, HE CONTINUED, BUT WE WOULD NOT OPPOSE ITS CREATION IF WE FEEL OUR MORE SPECIFIC CONCERNS ARE BEING MET, AND G-77, AS IT MIGHT WELL DO, MAKES DG SPOT AN ABSOLUTE CONDITION FOR APPROVING RESTRUCTURING PACKAGE. SUDANESE THREAT TO INTRODUCE RESOLUTION TO 32ND UNGA CALLING FOR CREATION OF NEW DG ENTIRELY SEPARATELY FROM RESTRUCTURING EFFORT WAS WORSE ALTERNATIVE FROM U.S. VIEWPOINT. NEVERTHELESS, WHILE WE WOULD NOT OPPOSE NEW DG POST UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES NOTED, FRANK EMPHASIZED VALUE WE PLACE ON OUR RELATIONS WITH FRANCE AND OUR DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL IN FINDING SOLUTION ALSO ACCEPTABLE TO GOF. HE DESCRIBED ALTERNATIVE OF CREATING DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (FROM THIRD WORLD) AS NUMBER TWO MAN OVERALL AT UN, AND ASKED IF THIS MIGHT RELIEVE FRENCH PROBLEM. FRANK POINTED OUT THAT THIS WOULD PLACE NEW MAN IN POSITION SUPERIOR NOT ONLY TO FRENCH ECONOMIC UNDER SECRETARY, BUT ALSO TO OTHER UNDER SECRETARIES AT THE UN.

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3. IN RESPONSE, LECOMPT AND DEJAMMET FIRST DESCRIBED
GOF OPPOSITION TO DG POSITION. THEY SAW INHERENT CONTRA-
DICTION IN TRYING TO CONTROL BURGEONING INEFFICIENCY AND
WASTE AT UN THROUGH CREATION OF YET ANOTHER HIGH-RANKING
ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICIAL WITH LARGE
OFFICE STAFF. THIS WOULD START TO DUPLICATE AND CONTRA-
DICT WORK OF OTHER VESTED OFFICES. WITHOUT STRONG MAN
DIRECTLY SUPPORTING SECRETARY GENERAL, THEY REASONED,
POINTS OF SPECIFIC CONCERN TO U.S.--AND FRANCE--WOULD GO
UNATTENDED AND THIRD WORLD'S PREOCCUPATION WITH POLITICS
WOULD SOON PARALYZE ANY ATTEMPTED REFORMS. THEY ZEROED
IN ON PARAGRAPH 5 OF DADZIE TEXT AS PARTICULAR STUMBLING
BLOCK BECAUSE OF OPEN-ENDED MANNER IN WHICH DG MANDATE IS
DESCRIBED. FRENCH FEEL POSITION AS IT NOW STANDS, CAN
OVERRIDE UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL ON ALL SIGNIFICANT
ECONOMIC MATTERS, AND FORCE UPON INDUSTRIALIZED STATES
ALL MANNER OF NEW ECONOMIC ORDER CONCEPTS TO WHICH THEY
HAD NEVER AGREED.

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4. FRANK ACKNOWLEDGED U.S. CONCERNS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF FRANCE WITH RESPECT TO POLITICAL AND BUREAUCRATIC PROBLEMS BESETTING UN AND SAID WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO COORDINATE WITH FRANCE AND EC PARTNERS IN EFFORT TO HAVE DADZIE TEXT REFLECT OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS. HE REQUESTED, AND LECOMPT PROVIDED, COPY OF WORKING DRAFT OF PARAS 3 THROUGH 5 OF EC REVISION. FRANK AGAIN STRESSED THAT US ACQUIESCENCE ON DG QUESTION WILL DEPEND UPON HOW SATISFACTORY REST OF TEXT WILL BE.

5. MYERSON DIRECTED CONVERSATION BACK ONTO FRANK'S QUESTION REGARDING OVERALL DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL. HE REMARKED THAT IF ANYTHING WERE TO BE DONE ON THIS SCORE, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE FAST. FRANK SAID U.S. HAD NOT PUSHED DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL IDEA BECAUSE OF LACK OF FRENCH RESPONSE, AND LECOMPT QUICKLY REPLIED THAT WHILE GOF HAD INITIALLY MADE SOME CRITICISM OF THIS IDEA, HE HAD TOLD ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES, "WE ARE NOT AT ALL DISINTERESTED AND ARE READY TO LOOK AT IT IN LIGHT OF THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PROBLEM."

6. DEJAMMET RETURNED TO FRENCH FEAR THAT NEW DG WOULD SEEK TO ELIMINATE FUNCTIONS OF UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, AND FRANK REPLIED THAT U.S. WOULD NOT GO ALONG WITH SUCH AN EFFORT. OUR VIEW, HE SAID, WAS THAT UNDER SECRETARY POST SHOULD BE KEPT AND STRENGTHENED INTO PRINCIPAL UN PLANNER FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY. POSITION WOULD REQUIRE GOOD POLITICAL ECONOMIST LIKE JEAN RIPERT WHO COULD HANDLE FUNDAMENTAL GLOBAL MACRO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. HE SHOULD LOOK INTO SUCH ISSUES AS THE NEED TO CHANNEL OPEC AND DEVELOPED COUNTRY SAVING INTO INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD AND THE CORRECT MATCHING OF ODA, PRIVATE INVEST-
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MENT, AND COMMERCIAL BANK LOANS TO ACHIEVE EFFECTIVE GLOBAL ECONOMIC GROWTH. DEJAMMET SAID THIS JOB DESCRIPTION FOR RIPERT WAS AS GOOD AS PRESENT DADZIE TEXT DESCRIPTION OF NEW DG POST WAS BAD.

7. LECOMPT SUMMARIZED BY SAYING GOF REMAINED VERY RELUCTANT ON QUESTION OF CREATING NEW DG POST, AND THAT HE FELT OVERALL DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL IDEA WAS POSSIBLY BEST SOLUTION TO DILEMMA. REWORKING OF CURRENT DADZIE TEXT DESCRIPTION OF DG FUNCTION COULD HELP ALSO, SHOULD G-77 PRESSURE MAKE CREATION OF THAT POST UNAVOIDABLE.

8. FRENCH SAID THAT THEY WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF U.S. COULD WORK ON DRAFT OF JOB DESCRIPTION OF DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL FOR POSSIBLE INSERTION IN DADZIE TEXT. IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF DIRECTOR GENERAL DESCRIPTION WERE TIGHTENED UP AND INCLUDED THE PROGRAMMING, BUDGETING, AND EVALUATION FUNCTIONS IDENTIFIED BY FRANK. IT WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL IF U.S. COULD PROVIDE A DRAFT DESCRIPTION OF THE UNDER SYG FOR ESA FOR INSERTION IN DADZIE TEXT TO ENSURE AN IMPORTANT AND SUBSTANTIAL ROLE FOR THE UNDER SYG FOR ESA. THEY EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT GHANA AND SUDAN SOUGHT TO ELIMINATE ANY EFFECTIVE ROLE FOR THE UNDER SYG FOR ESA. FRANK THOUGHT THAT U.S. MIGHT BE ABLE TO COME UP WITH DRAFT LANGUAGE THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE G-77. (COMMENT: THIS IS AN URGENT TASK WHICH SHOULD BE COMPLETED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.)

9. IN CLOSING, LECOMPT SAID FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD INTENDS TO RAISE RESTRUCTURING SUBJECT WITH

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SECRETARY VANCE, WHEN THE TWO MEET IN WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK IN CONNECTION WITH PRIME MINISTER BARRE'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES.

10. ON SEPTEMBER 9, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FRANK, ACCOMPANIED BY EMBASSY COUNSELOR MYERSON AND EMBOFF, MET

WITH JEAN RIPERT, FRENCH CANDIDATE FOR UNDER SYG FOR ESA.
RIPERT CLEARLY INTERESTED IN THE JOB, BUT SAID HE WOULD
"NOT TAKE IT AT ANY PRICE." HE FELT THAT CURRENT
RESTRUCTURING EFFORT SEEMED TO INVOLVE ASSIGNMENT OF ALL
THE ESA FUNCTIONS TO A NEW DG FOR DEVELOPMENT. HE WOULD
BE MORE COMFORTABLE WITH A DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL WITH
OVERALL UN MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES SINCE WALDHEIM
HAD LITTLE TIME FOR MANAGEMENT CONCERNS. HE COULD AGREE
THAT ESA IS OVERLOADED WITH OPERATIONAL WORK, BUT HE
FELT THAT IT WAS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR ESA PERSONNEL
TO BE INVOLVED IN OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES, PARTICULARLY
IN PROVIDING SUBSTANTIVE SUPPORT FOR FIELD ACTIVITIES.
RIPERT DID NOT WANT ESA TURNED INTO AN ACADEMIC RESEARCH
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11. FRANK SAID U.S. IS PLEASED THAT RIPERT IS CANDIDATE
FOR UNDER SYG FOR ESA JOB AS RIPERT HELD IN HIGH ESTEEM
IN U.S. GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE CIRCLES. HE AGREED WITH
RIPERT ON NEED TO DEFINE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OR
DIRECTOR GENERAL JOB IN BROADER, MANAGEMENT TERMS AND
THE NEED TO CONTINUE TO HAVE ESA PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN
OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES. HE FELT ESA HAD A ROLE TO PLAY
IN SECTORAL ANALYSIS; E.G., NATURAL RESOURCES INCLUDING
ENERGY, HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION, STATISTICS, ETC., AS
WELL AS IN BROAD GLOBAL ECONOMIC CONCERNS. FRANK
INDICATED U.S. WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH FRENCH
GOVERNMENT IN HELPING TO ENSURE THAT OUR MUTUAL CONCERNS
WERE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE.
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